

DC Gazette

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MAY 1978

25 CENTS AT NEWSSTANDS

HOW METRO HIJACKS RIDERS FOR ITS SUBWAY

FURTHER TRAVELS OF THE HOBBIT



NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

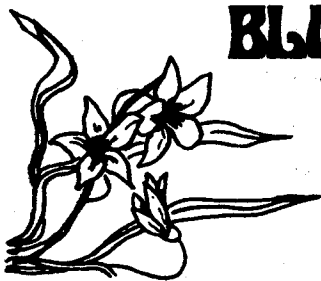
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DC GAZETTE

THE DC GAZETTE is published monthly except during the summer when it is published bimonthly. Our deadline is the second Tuesday of the month except for ads, which should be submitted by the third Tuesday of the month. The Gazette is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate and uses the services of Liberation News Service, Pacific News Service, College Press Service, HerSay News Service, and Community Press Features. The Gazette is available by mail for \$5 a year. Single copies are 50¢ if mailed and 25¢ at selected newsstands.

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DUPONT CIRCLE, DC 20009
232-5544

APPLE PIE

An American Report

Ecochips

A NEW congressional study has concluded that the cost of electricity produced by nuclear energy may be higher than that of solar energy or coal because of the problems of disposing of radioactive wastes.

The report, prepared by the House Government Operations Subcommittee, warns that the actual costs of nuclear-produced electricity are probably much higher than is currently estimated because of the waste problem.

The study states that neither the federal government nor the nuclear industry has prepared—in the report's words—"reliable cost estimates for the ultimate disposal and perpetual care of radioactive wastes or spent fuel."

The study also notes that the nuclear industry has failed to include in its financial estimates the necessary costs needed to dismantle and otherwise neutralize nuclear reactors, which have an estimated life of 30 to 40 years.

The congressional report says that when all costs are totaled, it is likely that solar energy—which has been termed much too costly by most major utility companies—may actually be cheaper than atomic power.

SOLAR ENERGY DIGEST reports that scientists are currently looking into the possibility of using a green scum-like material which grows on top of such bodies of water

as Lake Texcoco in Mexico and Lake Chad in Africa as a staple food.

The green scum is a blue-green algae, which scientists have found consists of about 70 percent pure protein, a figure higher than nearly any other food.

Unlike other types of algae, *The Digest* says, this type is completely digestible and causes no side effects such as cramps.

Solar Energy Digest says that before the Spanish conquistadors arrived, the green scum was commonly eaten with maize and other native cereals. Now, the magazine says, the Japanese and others are attempting to cultivate it in commercial quantities in efforts to solve some of the world's food problems.

THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, Congress's watchdog agency, reports that Americans are consuming much higher levels of pesticides than they should be.

The GAO says that as a result of inspection and enforcement problems at the Department of Agriculture and at the Food and Drug Administration, about 13 percent of all meat going to market contains higher levels of pesticide residue than is approved by the federal government.

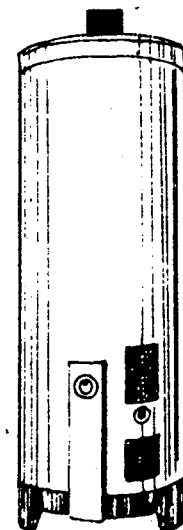
The GAO reports that the FDA is supposed to take action each time USDA officials refer a case in which residue levels exceed Environmental Protection Agency standards.

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The GAO says, however, that of the 3100 cases reported to the FDA by the USDA within a three-year period, only 37 percent were followed up.

The USDA has also been criticized for testing only 46 of the 143 drugs and pesticides known to leave residues in food producing animals.

THE US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION has compiled its list of "allowance limits," specifying how contaminated a food may be and still be offered for sale to the public.

As an example, take tomato paste — the kind used in pizza and other sauces. According to the FDA grocers may sell the paste as long as each 100 grams of the substance contains no more than 30 fly eggs, or no more than 15 fly eggs, plus one fly larva.

When it comes to popcorn, the FDA has ruled that six 10-ounce samples may contain one rodent pellet or one rodent hair per sample, or two rodent hairs or 20 gnawed grains per pound.

Fig paste eaters may be interested in knowing that up to 13 insect heads are legally permitted in two 100-gram samples.

When it comes to fish, it's perfectly salable as long as only five percent of the fillets have what the FDA calls a "definite odor of decomposition" over no more than 25 percent of the fish area; or if 20 percent of the fillets have a "slight odor of decomposition" over one quarter of their areas.

One-hundred grams of powdered chocolate are permitted to include up to 100 microscopic insect parts or an average of one-and-a-half rodent hairs per sample.

Mind & Body

SOMETIMES it seems that ex-smokers are the ones who complain the most about other peoples' smoke. There may be a reason for this.

A professor of medicine at the

University of Toronto says that former smokers can develop an allergy to the weed they once smoked. Doctor Riaz Nizami found it is often easy to produce allergic skin reactions with tobacco extracts applied to people who have quit smoking.

A DUKE UNIVERSITY researcher says that Vitamin E may help protect your lungs against the harmful effects of smog.

Daniel Menzel of the Duke Medical Center in Durham says he has found that mice displayed symptoms of significant lung damage when exposed to high levels of "nitrogen dioxide," a common element in smog.

Menzel says that he then fed a control group of mice regular doses of Vitamin E and discovered that the animals which consumed the vitamins did not experience the lung damage.

Menzel says he is convinced enough of his findings that he now takes 200 units of Vitamin E daily to protect himself against air pollution in the Durham, North Carolina area.

A CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR warns that many parents are turning their "babies into excitement addicts."

Professor Ivor Mills reports from London that many of today's parents don't try to end a baby's crying by comforting the infant or bringing it back to a restful state. Instead, according to Mills, they simply excite the child.

The professor says that it's common for today's parents to pick up a crying child, jog it, point out flashing lights and do other things to capture the baby's attention to stop his or her tears.

The result of all this, Mills says, is a youngster hooked on the need for excitement. The professor claims that as an "excitement addict" grows older, he or she needs heavier doses of stimulation to avoid depression. Eventually, Mills says, the children are apt to become delinquents who seek wild forms of excitement just to become even mildly entertained.

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1. Type the ad (with a good carbon ribbon) or use a black pentel pen. Copy may be no wider than 2 1/2" and no longer than 3". Single-space. Typing the ad vertically on a 3x5 file card is a good way to do this.

2. You may prepare your own camera-ready ad 3x3 or smaller.

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DCG



A RESEARCHER AT MIT says that the food you eat can influence everything from your memory to your sex drive.

Doctor Richard Wurtman says that scientists have been discovering in recent years that the composition of your daily diet can affect your thinking processes, your moods and your ability to fall asleep.

The doctor says, for example, that researchers have found that a lack of chlorine in the diet has caused memory lapses in both humans and animals. Eating foods rich in chlorine, such as eggs, cheese, meat and fish, can often cure the problem.

The researchers have also found that high-protein meals —

such as steak, fish, or eggs — make people more alert, as well as increasing their sexual appetites.

On the other hand, high carbohydrate meals — like spaghetti and potatoes — can help induce sleep and lower an eater's sex drive.

IF YOU LIVE in a city and like to ride a bike, the Department of Transportation has good news for you.

A government study of 10 non-smoking men found that riding a bike for 30 to 60 minutes through DC's rush hour exposed the subjects to only slightly more pollutants than are received by persons riding in automobiles.

Researchers were surprised at the findings, and speculated that the cyclists could move ahead through traffic while drivers were stuck in carbon monoxide-generating traffic jams.

The researchers warned that persons who smoke cigarettes would react more adversely to the exposure to air pollutants encountered by cyclists.

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Women & Men

THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN has mounted an intensive advertising campaign to try to persuade Swedish men to take advantage of a nine-month paid "childbirth leave" which all fathers may take from their jobs.

When a baby is born in Sweden, the mother — or father — is granted nine-months' childbirth leave. Swedish authorities are anxious to challenge the traditional male and female roles in the labor markets by encouraging men — instead of women — to stay home and take care of the newborn infants.

Part of the ad campaign includes subway train posters depicting three rugged-looking young men in their twenties in the open air, standing and chatting.

Each is minding a baby in a baby carriage and the caption on the poster says, "Daddy's on Childbirth Leave."

Fathers — or mothers — who take the childbirth leave, collect 90 percent of their normal wages during part of the leave.

So far, however, Sweden has reportedly had little success in convincing new fathers to take advantage of the program. This partly because many employers, reportedly have let it be known that daddies who take paternity leaves just might find it difficult to gain promotions when they return to work.

THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE reports that of the 110 women college presidents in the US today, 87 are nuns.

THE NATIONAL ABORTION RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE reports that there are currently at least eight states which are working on legislation calling for a constitutional convention to outlaw freedom of choice on abortion.

Eleven states have already passed such a resolution.

If 34 states pass the resolution, Congress is required by the Constitution to call a convention for the first time since the Constitution was adopted nearly 200 years ago.

WARAL argues that a constitutional convention for the purpose of outlawing freedom of choice on abortion could result in imposing a medical code on all Americans

AD RATES

\$2 per column inch
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\$90.00 per page

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based on the religious convictions of just a few sects.

A number of constitutional lawyers are opposing the proposed convention, not just because of the abortion issue, but because such a move could radically revise the whole Constitution and Bill of Rights by making them subject to the whims of a small but influential minority.

MAINE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL has ruled that a man has the right to take his wife's last name and both spouses have the option of retaining their own names after marriage.

Attorney General Joseph Brennan told the Maine's Vital Records Department that a woman assumes her husband's surname as a matter of "tradition, and little else."

A CHICAGO SLEEP RESEARCHER says that husbands and wives should occasionally take separate vacations so that the wife can catch up on her sleep.

Doctor Rosalind Cartwright of Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago reports that experiments in her sleep laboratory have found that most husbands sleep in ways which prevent their wives from obtaining adequate rest.

The doctor says that when married couples sleep together, the men almost always get proper amounts of "delta sleep" or deep sleep; however, she adds, wives are often disturbed by the male's tossing and turning and other nocturnal habits, and don't get enough "delta sleep."

To catch up, says Doctor Cartwright, wives should make a point of sleeping alone from time to time.



FOR YEARS, Wheaties has called itself "The Breakfast of Champions." Now the company is trying out a new slogan: "The Breakfast of Chairmen."

The Christian Science Monitor reports that, because of the troubles General Mills has recently encountered in having athletes such as Bruce Jenner endorse Wheaties, the company has decided to enlist major corporate leaders to appear in television ads instead.

Already signed for the new campaign are the chairmen of the boards of the auto world's "Big Three" - Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. As an example, the new commercial featuring Henry Ford the second goes like this:

"HI. Maybe you've heard of me. I'm Henry Ford the second, chairman of the Ford Motor Company. I've eaten Wheaties every day of my life. So did my father and grandfather. If it weren't for Wheaties there wouldn't be a Ford Motor Company, and worse yet, there wouldn't

CLASSIFIED

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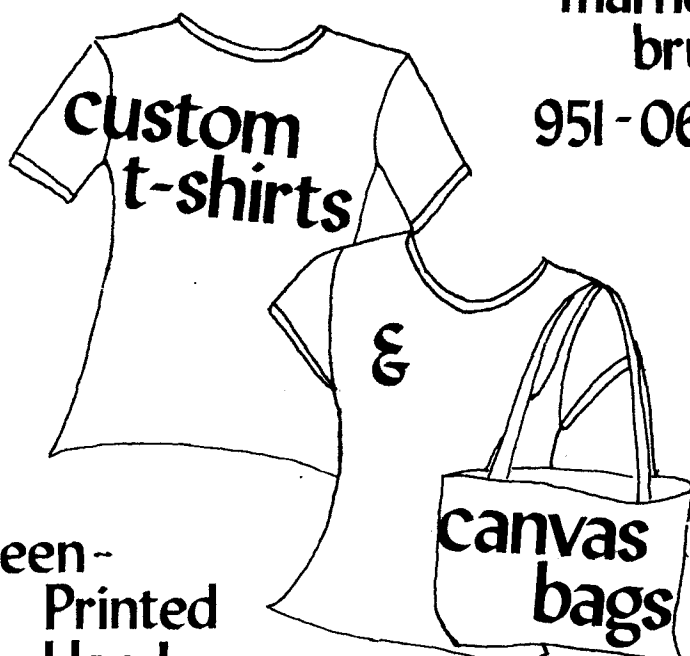
NATIONAL non-profit organization seeks individuals as part-time guides for historic house museums. Approximately 25 hours per month including weekdays, nights and weekends at \$2.75 per hour. Required good rapport and interest in History, Art and Historic Preservation. Send qualifications to: Administrator, 2340 S St. NW, Washington DC 20008

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be a Ford in your future." Ford then picks a Toyota and hurls it into the ocean. "I couldn't have done that without my Wheaties," Ford says.

In another ad, the board chairman of Ford, GM and Chrysler are featured together, sitting around the breakfast table, chomping down their last spoonfuls of cereal. The three executives then look up from their dishes and exclaim in unison: "They may recall our cars, but they'll never recall our breakfast, 'cause there's never been a bad bowl of ...Wheaties, the breakfast of chairmen."

Notes From the Real World

THE MAHARISHI has developed a new formula to achieve world peace.

The TM leader and former guru of the four Beatles says that if a nation wants to be invincible, all it has to do is have its entire army meditate twice a day.

The Maharishi has released a statement from his "International Capital of Enlightenment" in Switzerland which reads: "When the military of a nation adopts the new drill of practicing the transcendental meditation and TM Sidhi program for 20 minutes each morning and evening, the influence of harmony, coherence, and self-sufficiency generated in the national consciousness will be enough to disallow the birth of an enemy, thus making the nation invincible."

DOCTOR STANLEY BLOCK, writing in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, is out with the warning that more and more teenagers are getting a grocery store high from aerosol cans of whipped cream.

The propellant in the whipped cream aerosol, according to Block, contains nitrous oxide, more commonly known as "laughing gas." By carefully avoiding shaking the can and holding it upright, he says, users can get "five or six great hits" of the laughing gas before it runs out.

Block warns that nitrous oxide

A TELEVISION NETWORK is rushing out with a potential new series starring a clone — or rather 13 clones.

NBC TV has announced plans for a two-hour TV pilot which the network hopes to expand into a regular series next year.

The plot revolves around a biochemist who produces 13 exact copies of himself which are dispatched around the world. If the clone show becomes a series, each of the episodes will center on what one of the particular clones is doing in life.

ide — or laughing gas — when taken in sufficient quantities, can lead to an inadequate supply of oxygen getting to the brain, and possible mental deficiencies later on.

THE WEEKLY BUSINESS LETTER published by *US News and World Report* is advising American business leaders to prepare for a major change in US consumer habits — a shift toward "the simple life."

According to the publication, a new lifestyle it calls "voluntary simplicity" is "no longer restricted to the radical fringe."

US News says that "plain ordinary people" are switching their buying impulses toward the saving of energy and toward do-it-yourself items such as "home-made furniture, home-grown foods, less meat, more grains, less 'junk.'"

The publication says that "right now" some five million people are switching to "voluntary simplicity;" by 1985, the number may swell to 35 million, and by the year 2000 perhaps as many as 100 million people will be living more simple lives, *US News* predicts.

"In short," says *US News*, "'briar patch' economics is catching on, the 'less is more' philosophy is moving into the mainstream."

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR James Donovan, who supports capital pun-

ishment, has told the Council of Churches of Mohawk Valley that Christianity would not exist if — in his words — "Jesus got eight to fifteen years, with time off for good behavior."

Donovan made the comment in a March 1st letter to the Council after the church group had informed the Senator that it was opposed to the death penalty "as a matter of faith." The Council, in a statement to the press, said it was "shocked at Donovan's logic."

A CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE in Florida has ruled that Florida's anti-marijuana law is unconstitutional.

Judge Joseph Durant stated, following a lengthy court hearing, that there is no "rational basis" for outlawing the simple possession of the weed in the privacy of one's home.

Said the judge, "the overwhelming evidence established that marijuana, as it is presently used by approximately 20 to 30 million Americans, does not constitute a health problem of any significant dimension. Marijuana use," he stated, "is far more innocuous in terms of physiological and social damage than alcohol or tobacco."

A NEW STUDY by the Institute for Demographic and Economic Studies has uncovered a link between the health of the economy and the grade-point averages of high schoolers.

Researchers at the New Haven-based institute say their study of 20,000 students found that grade averages rise and fall right along with the health of the job market.

In tracing the trends in high school grades, the researchers discovered that when the job market was depressed — and a diploma wasn't worth much — grade-point averages quickly plummeted. However, whenever the economy improved and the job market looked rosy, students' grade-point averages shot up again.

POLICE IN FAYETTEVILLE, GEORGIA, conducted a marijuana raid on an entire high school last month by invading the school with two pot-sniffing dogs after cutting off the school's water supply.

Police Chief Charles Gilbert explained that the water was turned off so students couldn't flush their stash down the toilets.

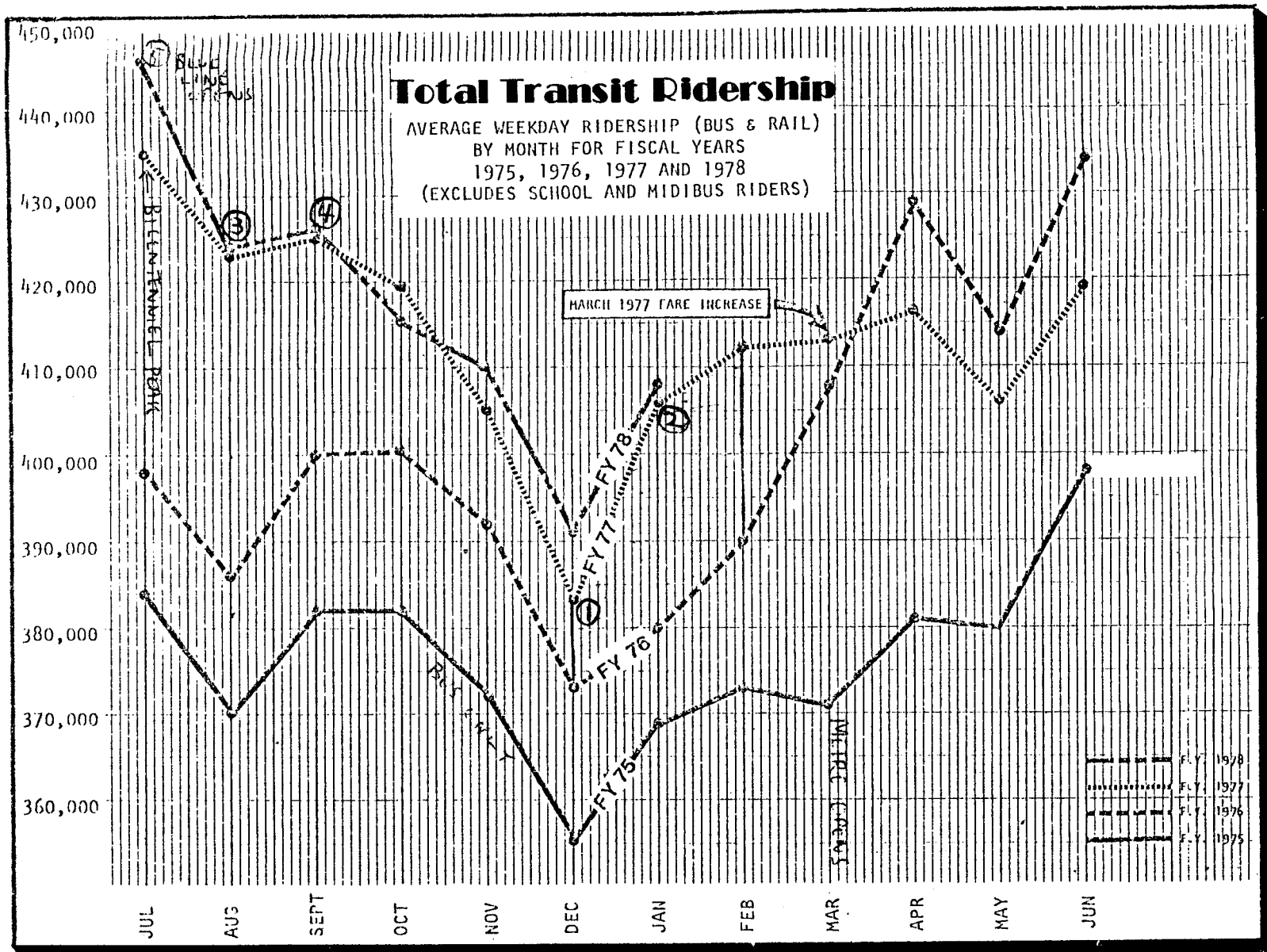
The dogs sniffed the 1700 Fayette County high school students, their lockers and other possible hiding places, and found an undetermined amount of the weed.

Chief Gilbert added that with the toilets not flushing "a lot went out the windows. We found a good bit outside," he reported. Said the chief: "We didn't use any Gestapo tactics... but I think we did leave a psychological effect on the students."

A TEAM of agricultural researchers report they have successfully cloned asparagus.

The cloning of asparagus means that millions of spears can be raised in identical sizes and then picked up by mechanical harvesters. They are not attempting to clone any hol-landaise.





THIS Metro chart shows the pattern of total public transit ridership since the summer before Metro opened. While a quick glance suggests a substantial increase in ridership, the chart does not reflect the fact that 83% of the increase in ridership between 1975 and 1976 was due to more people riding buses only. In other words, most of the increase would have occurred without the subway. If you disregard the FY75 line you'll get a clearer picture of what has happened. Note the increase in ridership between 1976 and 1977 (shaded area) that followed the opening of Gallery Place (1) and Dupont Circle (2). But by April 1977, with a fare increase in effect total ridership had slumped below the previous year's level despite these two new stations and continued to do so until the opening of the Blue Line. At this point ridership rose briefly about 10,000 a day above the previous year, but with the institution of bus service cutbacks (3 and 4) ridership fell again. The result is that, through January of this year, total transit ridership has been close to that before the opening of the Blue Line (Chart does not reflect the opening of the Silver Spring leg early this year). Metro has added only about 22,000 new riders to mass transit each weekday — and most of them came with the opening of the Red Line!

HOW METRO HIJACKS RIDERS FOR ITS SUBWAY

BURIED INSIDE Metro's latest quarterly report on ridership is hard evidence of the failure of the subway system to attract substantial numbers of new riders to mass transit. In fact, average weekday ridership attributable to the subway has only gone up about five percent since Metro opened.

This astounding disaster for the area's dream of a modern transit system that would lure people out of their cars has been downplayed by Metro and ignored by the mass media, even though the figures show conclusively that so far Metro has been a bust.

Here is what has happened:

In Fiscal Year 1975, before the subway opened, average weekday ridership on the buses was 377,000. In Fiscal Year 1976, with only a small portion of the subway open, total transit ridership increased to 400,000. But eighty-three percent of this ridership increase was due to people riding buses only. In Fiscal 1977, total ridership went up to 413,000 and in Fiscal 1978 (prior to the opening of the Silver Spring leg) weekday ridership was running about 417,000. Using as a base the bus-related ridership of FY 1976 (which was 395,000) we find that the total weekday increase in

ridership due to the subway as of January of this year is around 22,000.

Without considering the possibility that bus ridership would have increased without the subway (after all it did go up 18,000 rides a day between 1975 and 1976) and attributing all the gain to Washington's wondrous underground, we are still left with the fact that Metro has, to date, failed to accomplish what it was designed for: to get significantly more people riding mass transit.

Why has this happened, especially since Metro and the press bombard us with glowing reports of increased subway ridership? There are at least two important reasons:

- Metro has, in effect, hijacked its own bus riders and forced them on to the subway by ending bus lines at subway stops, competing with its own most profitable bus routes, and making cutbacks in service. The effect of this has been that the number of trips on buses only has dropped 25% in the last two years. About half of these 100,000 daily riders now use a combination of bus and rail and the other half are either using the subway exclusively or have given up on the system entirely.
- Metro's fare increases have hurt

transit ridership. One month after Metro raised the fares in 1977, fewer people were riding transit than the year before.

In short, Metro has been following the approved route to transit disaster: competing with itself and raising fares.

Metro officials shrug off the conversion of bus riders to the subway, arguing that it is cheaper to carry people by subway than by bus. They point to per-passenger subsidy figures that show it will cost 56¢ operating subsidy per bus rider in 1979 while only 51¢ subsidy per subway rider. But these figures conceal several important facts:

- First, there is a Catch-22 here. If the subway cuts into the bus system's most profitable business, the needed bus subsidy will obviously turn sharply upward. The more the subway steals passengers from the buses, the more money the bus system will lose, and the better the subway will look.

- Secondly, the operating subsidies do not include capital costs or debt service. These figures drastically change the picture.

A more reasonable way to look at the effectiveness of the subway system is to judge it by its ability to attract peo-

ple to mass transit. If we didn't have the subway system, and not a single new person rode a bus, we would expect that about 22,000 less people a day would be riding mass transit or 5.7 million fewer rides a year.

Now let's see what it has cost to get those 5.7 million new rides. For the District alone, FY 1979 requirements will be \$14.5 million in operating subsidies, and \$1.7 million in debt service. The city's 1979 operating subsidy per increased transit ride amounts to \$2.54, or \$2.84 a ride with interest included. Add a conservative figure for depreciation and the per-ride subsidy approached \$4. That's just for one year, with previous capital costs not included!

The figure for the area as a whole, with operating costs and debt service included (but not depreciation) comes to around \$6 a ride. In other words, the cost of adding new riders to our mass transit system is running about \$6 for each ride.

Metro would prefer that we figured the subsidy based on total ridership of the subway, but this is misleading because so many of the riders didn't come from cars or some competitor — but from Metro's own system.

Metro might also argue that bus ridership would have gone down without the subway. While this is possible, especially given Metro's self-destructive management

My staff doesn't have time to work on transportation. They're too busy trying to figure out how to fund it.
— FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICIAL

policies, the evidence suggests the contrary. Bus ridership hit a low in this town in the early seventies, but was recovering until the subway opened in earnest.

What will happen now that several more stations have opened on the Silver Spring leg is speculation. We'll have to wait for the next quarterly report. But there are hints that the picture may not change much. On Feb. 7 Metro took a count of passengers board the subway at the four new stations. On Feb. 21, after it had instituted cutbacks in bus service to force bus riders onto the subway at these stations, it took another count. Here's what happened to subway ridership between those two counts:

Silver Spring Station: Up 87%

Takoma: Up 68%

Fort Totten: Up 177%

Brookland: Up 154%

Metro's Peter-Paul principle was hard at work, herding still more bus riders into its failing subway in the hopes that no one will notice how little difference it is making to what Metro was supposed to be all about: getting people out of their cars and onto mass transit.

PUBLIC NOTICE

McLean Gardens Report

For those who may not know, CBI-Fairmac, the landlord of McLean Gardens, seems to be trying to buy off the tenants through frequent notices of relocation assistance. In a series of almost weekly notices, Fairmac has upped the ante it is willing to pay to see its tenants leave. In the midst of these offers, Fairmac also announced a 9% rent increase. Perhaps the increase will be used to fund these relocation incentives. Interestingly, Fairmac is picking and choosing its rent control laws: its evicting under the now-expired 1-33, but is raising the rents under 2-54.

The "Extension of Notice to Vacate Emergency Act," passed by the D.C. Council on April 4, may provide some relief to the tenants at McLean Gardens—if it is renewed at the end of its 90 day life. The McLean Gardens Residents Association, however, feels that more substantial and lasting legislation will be necessary in order to deal with the present housing crisis and protect the city's tenants. Other contemplated legislation, dealing with protecting the elderly and handicapped from eviction, may offer some help to all tenants in an indirect way—by inhibiting the redeveloper/landlord's ability to clear out entire buildings as prelude to redevelopment.

Many people are not aware of how strong the condominium conversion moratorium of 1974 really was. The D.C. Council described the situation as one where "there is a grave housing crisis...and...a genuine emergency threatening the public peace, health, safety, welfare and morals of District residents..." The Council then declared that "Any notice to quit that has heretofore been served for the purpose of converting a rental unit to a condominium...shall be null and void as of the effective date of this regulation." A moratorium is essential if the status quo is to be preserved while the Council legislatively deals with this latest crisis.

There have been suggestions that the city should only address itself to the problem of relocation; let the landlords do whatever they want, so long as they help the dislocated tenants. This is not satisfactory because the city suffers in at least two ways: 1) the supply of rental housing is only further diminished and 2) the physical and emotional trauma inflicted on the evicted tenants is unavoidable. Financial assistance is no solution because the tenant must still find new housing, pull up roots, settle into a new environment, and so forth.

The city must realize that housing is a public utility. In times of crisis it obviously needs to be regulated. Currently, a substantial portion of the District's population—the tenants—are inadequately protected. A real solution to the city's housing crisis is going to have to increase supply, protect tenants, and redirect developers. To do this, the city government cannot be cautious or cheap. New approaches to preserving and increasing housing will have to be considered. Some examples are:

1. City go into direct competition with landlords. Projects like McLean Gardens were built and run by the government during WWII; there was an immediate need, which the government met by entering the market.
2. Tenant equity. If the law recognized the share that tenants' rent contribute toward the equity landlords have in their property, it would become much more difficult to evict.
3. Negotiate covenants with landlord/developers. The covenants would preserve the property as rental housing and thereby offer protection.
4. Establish an approval process, under the Mayor, for all evictions (except due to nonpayment, illegal acts, etc.). This would be designed to protect, generally, the public welfare and specifically the tenants.
5. Require that landlords seeking to discontinue their property as housing divulge their plans at a public hearing. It is incredible that under the current law tenants can be evicted for seemingly no reason at all.

The tenants at McLean Gardens will hold their 8th annual garden party on May 13th on the grounds of the complex. For more information, contact P.O. Box 39080, Washington, D.C. 20016.

Mr. Natural Needs Help



I.R.S. Nabs Mr. Natural

In 1967 *Zap Comix* introduced a new and exciting cartoonist — Robert Crumb. His cartoons were very special and very popular, and his *Keep on Truckin'* was soon ripped off for everything from drinking glasses to jock straps. Friends told him he needed a smart lawyer to "protect him" and then the trouble really began.

When the dust had cleared, Crumb's ex-wife and the lawyer had all the money and Crumb had the I.R.S. bill. After selling his original art work and anthology rights to his comix, he still owes the feds \$28,000 with no chance of raising it himself.

We readers can really help him.

"Unsolicited gifts" are not taxable, and if we all send R. Crumb a dollar, or five, or maybe more, we can save the day.

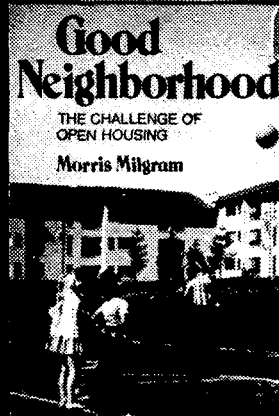
You never saw Mr. Natural selling waterbeds on TV did you? Aren't you glad? R. Crumb has tickled us over the years — and now he needs our help.

Please mail your check to:

R. Crumb
290 Mullen Av.
San Francisco, CA
94110

"Provides a fascinating account of Morris Milgram's pioneering work in developing integrated housing."

—CONGRESSMAN DONALD M. FRASER



Good Neighborhood

The Challenge of Open Housing
By MORRIS MILGRAM

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—KARL E. TAEUBER, University of Wisconsin

JAMES FARMER, Chairman, Fund for an OPEN Society
9803 Roosevelt Blvd., Phila., PA 19114

Yes! Please send me _____ copies of *GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD* by Morris Milgram at the special rate of \$7.95 each, postpaid. Please have a copy autographed to me. My check for \$_____ is enclosed. (If check is larger than the book price, the difference will be considered as a gift to aid OPEN's work of providing modest-interest mortgages to minorities and whites for pro-integration housing moves.)

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Royalties from *Good Neighborhood* go to OPEN. Contributions to OPEN are tax deductible.



De minimus

JUST AFTER WE HAS SAID some nice things about Arrington Dixon in the last issue he turns right around and helps report out an ethics bill from his committee that said that a legislator who stands to gain up to \$5000 from a piece of legislation that would also benefit 50 other people wasn't in conflict of interest. The \$5000 was considered "de minimus," which shows, we guess, that inflation has hit conflict of interest just like everything else.

Thanks to Dave Clarke, the five grand circuit-breaker for politicians on the take got dropped from the bill and at this writing the council is considering other wording to define a de minimus pay-off.

The argument is that the law, as it now reads, isn't enforced. It says that "no public official shall use his or her official position or office to obtain financial gain."

The problem with leaving the law this general is that some pedant might argue that no homeowning councilmember could vote to lower property taxes.

But the five grand figure was an invitation for our legislators to do openly what some have been doing quietly: mixing public business with private pleasure. We suspect it is wiser to leave the law somewhat vague and hope that a tad of residual guilt will seep through.

As it is now, some officials have considerably more sense of propriety than others. While it may be unrealistic to expect the latter to raise their standards, there is no need to write a law that encourages the former to lower theirs.

Improving the code

FORTY YEARS AGO, when the DC income tax code was introduced, it matched the federal code. Since then, the DC law has failed to follow the changes in the federal law and as a result we have an income tax

which is far more regressive than the fed's.

No one has paid much attention to this. In fact, it has become a minor boon to local politicians who can propose changes in the DC law, with the subsequent gratitude of the voter, which merely amount to adding a touch more conformity. The problem is that the DC code continually lags behind the federal law.

Here are a few example:

- The DC law has a much lower standard deduction.
- The DC law does not allow for joint returns.
- The DC law has different treatment for earned income.
- The DC law lacks a minimum tax provision.
- The DC law has different rules concerning itemized deductions.

The result of these differences is such that a person in the lower income brackets may be paying no federal tax but forking over a significant sum to the city. A single person with a gross annual income of \$10,000 pays about 35% of the federal tax in city taxes. At \$20,000 the percentage drops to 30% and at \$60,000 it's only 25%.

More striking is the anti-family bias of the DC tax. A family of four whose income is \$8000 pays more DC tax than federal levy. At \$20,000 the family is paying 42% of its federal tax in city taxes and at \$60,000 about 30%.

Matt Watson, the city auditor, has proposed that the city use a provision of the federal tax code that permits states (and DC) to conform their codes to the US law and, as a bonus, get their tax laws administered, collected and enforced

GRAPHIC: TAKE OVER

In answer to the Ogden group's assertions that they wanted new investment tax credits on new equipment purchases and greater Government efforts toward reducing youth unemployment, Mr. Mondale replied:

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!

— NEW YORK TIMES

by the feds. Councilmember Hilda Mason has studied the matter and has introduced legislation to accomplish this goal. It would make life much simpler for everyone, would save administrative costs, increase enforcement (hardly anyone is taken to court for violating the DC code) and could amount to a not-insignificant redistribution of the tax burden.

Miracle on Fifteenth St.?

A BETTER TOUT than we suggests that we may have misled our readers by suggesting that because the Post has favored Sterling Tucker in news coverage, it will end up endorsing him. He points out he has heard pro-Barry rumblings on 15th Street and that, anyway, the Post has gotten so big that it suffers from the policy inconsistencies of all large bureaucracies. Thus the news editors may be pro-Tucker but the editorial staff could favor Barry. He admits, however, that the editorializing on the news pages may be more effective.

The gas hike

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF DC'S UTILITIES were publicly owned? Can't tell for sure but the Consumer Utility Board, a group of forty individuals who represent community groups as an advisory arm to the Office of people's Counsel, has called for the repeal of Washington Gas Light's service charge and urged the Public Utility Commission to deny WGL's requested 13% price hike. The CUB also accused the PSC of favoring the interests of the utilities over those of consumers and notes that while the commission has not acted on the consumers bill of rights introduced three years ago, it has found time to consider two rate hike increases.

Unfair to DC cheats

PEOPLE KEEP TELLING US how to cheat Metro using the farecards. The systems involve using two or three cards and alternating them in such fashion that the little brown box thinks you never left the station from which you exit. The problem is that all these nefarious schemes work only for people who normally would have to pay above the minimum fare. Once again Metro has screwed the city; it allows suburbanites to cheat but not us.

Fit for office

WITH HIS CHARACTERISTIC ADHERENCE to openness in government, Dave Clarke has released to us the results of his physical examination taken last month at the new Community Group Health Foundation. He was found, he says, in "perfect health" although when we talked the lab reports hadn't come in yet. Well, there goes another campaign issue.

Clarke went to the CGHF, formerly known as the Upper Cardozo Health

SOME ENDORSEMENTS

FOR MAYOR: MARION BARRY. See April issue for comments.

FOR CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE: HILDA MASON and BETTY ANNE KANE. The only trouble with these two is that they should be running for mayor and city council chair. For politics without reservations or regrets, this is where to put your efforts. HILDA MASON has proved to be just as good a councilmember as we had thought she would. The problem is, as a Statehood representative, she is caught in the crossfire of the Democratic sibicide. Denied the chair of the education committee by Sterling Tucker, short-changed on staff, and unable to tap the Democratic coffers, she faces a tough battle for reelection after the fall Democratic primary scramble. Give her a hand. It'll be a wonderful antidote for political cynicism. . . . BETTY ANN KANE has been a superb member of the Board of Education, hard-working, thoughtful and generally right. She is running as a Democrat and so won't be competing against HILDA. If she can make it to the council, it will give HILDA someone to talk to and that would be nice.

WARD ONE: DAVE CLARKE. Clarke sometimes gets buried under his own amendments but he's been out there from Day One trying to make the council pay attention to people and problems it might otherwise ignore. His

fight against the food tax and for the speculation tax and his consistent efforts on behalf of civil liberties are just a few of the reasons he should be re-elected. He gets a goose egg on the convention center but otherwise he's fine. He is opposed by Frank Smith, long-time Adams-Morgan activist, who is fully qualified and would undoubtedly make a fine councilmember as well. But we can see no reason why Clarke should be kicked out to make room for him.

WARD THREE: POLLY SHACKLETON. Polly Shackleton doesn't like statehood. On the other hand, she doesn't like the convention center, either. On the other hand, she thinks that both Marion Barry and Sterling Tucker are "fine" candidates for mayor. On the other hand, she has been a leading voice for improved health services and the advisory neighborhood commission, and has a generally progressive voting record. When you get through switching hands, you're pretty lucky to have her there, bugging DES about your fouled-up water bill, standing eyeball to eyeball with the land-grabbers and trying in lots of little ways to make this a better city. We opposed Polly the last time round but, despite our differences, we think she's done a damn good job. Which is lucky, because as this is written no one is opposing her.

Clinic (3020 14th NW), to draw attention to the facility which has the capacity to handle 50,000 community residents of all income and age groups. Clarke points out that "because the center's funding is based on a formula that considers the number of users of the program, it is extremely important that the community take advantage of the finest health care offered in the area or face the possibility that this price-less community resource may fold." At the moment the center is extremely underused and is in a serious financial bind. Clarke says that the center gave him "the most exhaustive physical I've ever had in my life."

Jeans okayed

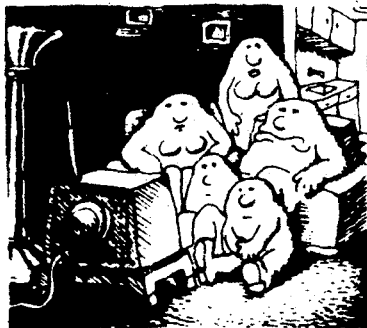
AN ARBITRATION DECISION has been handed down in the matter of federal blue jeans on the job. We can thank Clair V. Duff, acting in a case involving two air traffic controllers who were sent home because they were wearing jeans. Ruled arbitrator Duff: "The current president of the United States has been photographed wearing blue jeans while present on the public streets of Plains, Ga., and while on television, therefore other government workers can follow non-suit. He continued, "We are persuaded that casual dress has become widely acceptable in the working environment both in government and in many sections of private industry." If, however, you like to wear V-sweaters with no shirt, you'll have to wait for another president. Duff ruled that was going too far.

Acceptable compromise

THE GREAT VOLUNTARY EVICTION MORATORIUM proposed by that noted friend of the dispossessed, Sterling Tucker, fizzled out quickly after Sterling got his initial publicity. Within a few days, the realtors turned thumbs down on the idea,

offering instead to raise \$50,000 to help relocate low income or elderly tenants who were evicted. This magnanimous offer breaks down to \$100 for 500 tenants and would be quickly recouped by the landlords with the new rents they would charge following eviction. Sterling, however, thought it was fine. He called it an "acceptable compromise," which shows you how easy it is to strike a bargain with our would-be mayor.

Other members of the council were not so simply satisfied, however. Doug Moore, Wilhelmina Rolark and Hilda Mason introduced a motion in council that would require landlords to give a six month eviction notice to tenants in buildings to be taken off the rental market. The council passed the motion unanimously.



More on lead

THE GAZETTE's stories on lead poisoning - which pointed out that causes other than paint had been ignored - received confirmation last month in a report from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. According to Irwin Billick, head of HUD's lead elimination research program, "Although lead-based paint is a prime source of environmental exposure, it is not the only source. . . . Further, the relative contribution of lead-based paint to children's lead levels is unknown, as is the relative importance of other sources, such as lead from food, dust or the ambient air."

Printing season

NEW PUBLICATIONS ARE POPPING up all over. The one we can recommend highly is the Rock Creek Monitor, a community paper serving Adams Morgan, Dupont Circle and Mt. Pleasant. You can find copies around the neighborhood or you can send \$7 to the Monitor at 1724 20th St. NW, DC 20009 (483-0774). Don't miss Brian Doherty's "Around the Neighborhood" column. . . . THE SAMPLE ISSUE of the Washington Tribune reads a little like an in-towner's Washingtonian. To give you a flavor, here are some of the headlines over stories in this issue and ones promised in the future:

'RETURN TO THE CITY:' FACTS AND FANTASIES

WEST OF ROCK CREEK PARK: A RENTER'S GUIDE

PICKING THE BEST OF DC'S TENNIS COURTS

FOUR FORM RENOVATION CLUB
AN EXCLUSIVE SERIALIZATION OF R.J. TURNER'S POPULAR BOOK "HOW TO FIND A HOUSE TO RENOVATE IN WASHINGTON DC

CAN YOUR MARRIAGE SURVIVE A RENOVATION

The paper is being financed by local investors including Gil Hahn. . . . YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT to see what the Potomac Journal is all about. It won't be out until fall, but it promises to cover in-depth the actions of the governments of the region and to "de-mystify state and local issues and increase the accountability of public policy makers."

Scrambled Anita

THE GAZETTE has gotten wind of a new organization: Scrambled Oranges for Anita (or SOFA for short). SOFA reportedly plans to encourage the idea of picking up a few Florida oranges and putting them back somewhere else in the supermarket, back where they don't belong, anywhere, such as with the laundry detergents or the canned soups. An underground communique from SOFA found on the Gazette city desk

states: "A scrambled orange is such a jolting visual image that it will be easily remembered by the general public at a later time when its symbolism as a protest against Anita Bryant's bigotted politics becomes known. As FLORIDA oranges get moved about, Anita will get moved out."

Furthermore...

VINCENT REED has come out with his long-awaited list of schools he wants to close in order to save money. Ones in the Gazette primary circulation area are Bryan, Logan, Edmonds, Morgan Annex, Lenox Annex, Lincoln Jr. High and Gordon Jr. High. There are 23 in all. And out of this mighty effort, guess how much money will be saved each year? \$600,000.

THIS MONTH'S FASCINATING FISCAL FACT: The long-term debt of DC is greater than that of all the five closest suburban counties combinedPOLLY SHACKLETON IS "deploring" the lack of enforcement of residential sticker parking program. . . . MOST PREDICTABLE NEWS ITEM OF THE MONTH: From the Star: "Most of Tucker's contributions appear to have come from persons active in the real estate industry."

OVERHEARD at a performance of Michael Kirby's Photoanalysis and quoted in In-the-Works: "I understand what you're saying, I just don't understand why you're saying it."

MARION BARRY'S BEEN right busy these days. He noticed an announcement for a secretarial job opening in city hall that stated the applicant would need tact to permit "her superior to work and perform the functions of his office." Barry put out a news release calling it a violation of the city's affirmative action program and one of the worst he had seen in years. Jackie Bolder of the Star quoted this telling response from an unnamed "high level member" of the mayor's staff: "I wonder if Barry's accusation and silly memorandum is the result of the Gertrude Stein Club supporting him. You know he has the support of the gay liberation organizations in



the District. . . They're against terms like he and she, period." . . .MARION HAS ALSO FILED A BRIEF to protest the proposed transfer of Channel 14 from the city to Fairfax, Va. The move would eliminate DC's last open VHF channel and last opportunity for blacks to move into the TV game in a big way here. . . BARRY is proposing elimination of the public utilities sales tax and the imposition of a utility gross receipts tax. The beauty of this nifty piece of legislative legerdemain is that the city would get the same amount of revenue, but customers currently exempt from the sales tax would end up contributing to the gross receipts tax since it would come out of the utilities' total sales.



INTERGALACTIC FLASH

NEWLY-RELEASED Air Force documents reveal that a number of US Strategic Air Command Bases and nuclear weapons storage areas were the targets of unexplained "close encounters" in the fall of 1975.

The documents on UFO sightings were released by the Air Force to a group called "Ground Saucer Watch, Incorporated" under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

The memos indicate that at least four SAC bases in the United States and several similar air bases in Canada were apparently visited by low-flying UFO's.

In some instances, as many as seven unidentified hovering craft were spotted both by military observers on the ground as well as tracked down by radar. The Air Force documents indicate that military pilots, who chased after some of the strange craft were unable to explain what they were.

In one case at the Malmstrom Air Base in Montana, on November 7, 1975, Air Force documents describe the UFO's this way: "Objects appeared to hover and then descend with bright streaming lights. Simultaneous sightings from different locations." Those reports indicated that after two Air Force jets were scrambled to chase the objects, the lights dimmed and then disappeared, and radar contact was lost.

KEY VOTE

DOUG MOORE moved that the convention center be removed from the budget, with reconsideration at a later time. The council voted 8-4 against the motion.

AGAINST THE CENTER

Doug Moore, Polly Shackleton, Hilda Mason, Nadine Winter.

FOR THE CENTER

Clarke, Dixon, Rolark, Barry, Wilson, J. Moore, Hardy, Tucker

ABSTENTIONS

Spaulding

New group hits Metro

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP extricate the area from the Metro mess, you should get in contact with the Metropolitan Washington Coalition for Metro Accountability (c/o Burdette, 4892 Guilford Road, College Park, Md. 20740). The coalition's leaders include Edmond Kanwit, former senior economist of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration and one of the most persistent and perceptive critics of Metro. The coalition has prepared a number of papers on Metro's current study of alternatives to the complete 100-mile system. Among the points the group makes are these:

- The alternatives analysis starts with the 100-mile system and works backwards by small increments instead of starting with the minimum system which can now be funded and determining what additions can and should be made to it.
- The forecasted patronage is overestimated by about 50% producing gross errors in projected deficits.
- The assumed annual escalation of fare income is overly optimistic and unrealistic.
- The analysis assumes that all trips not made by rail transit will be made by private car, ignoring car-pools, buses and other forms of transit.

- Calculations of Metro costs do not include capital expenditures.

- The shortest Metro system is the most desirable one.

- In comparing the costs of buses vs. rail, the study ignores the fact that much of the bus cost would be incremental i.e. additional riders on existing buses. The study uses an inflated figure for bus costs.

- The study does not consider alternative forms of transit.

The coalition concludes: "A new study should be made of a rail system which consists of only those miles on which major construction work is already completed or underway. . . .after which those other segments found to be properly cost-effective could then be added, when and if all of the necessary financing has been made available. Even such a minimum system will cost more than is now available and thus substantial new funding is going to be required in any event. No new construction work should be initiated until all of the present funds have been applied to finishing those presently constructed segments to the revenue producing and operable stage."



HIZONER: Recently returned from mountaintop
(Reni Photo)

SWAMPOODLE'S REPORT

HI THERE, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. The world's most irregular columnist is back again with a roundup of all the really important news. So put down those fundraising invitations and pay attention.

For example only this column will give you the full text of a news release issued by the DC government on March 23, towit:

The following statement was issued today by the DC office of the Corporation Counsel:

The Office of the Corporation Counsel, DC today announced that Group "A" real property taxpayers involved in the payment of attorney fees in the case of Kelly v. District of Columbia, Tax Division Docket No. 2225 (Superior Court, DC) should not be confused by the recent settlement of another similar case, Green v. District of Columbia, Tax Division Docket No. 2213 (Superior Court, DC).

Louis P. Robbins, Principal Deputy Corporation Counsel, made the announcement because of a recent report that payment of attorney's fees by Group "A" real property taxpayers in the Kelly case had been resolved by the city in an out-of-court settlement.

Mr. Robbins went on to state: "The question of payment of attorney's fees by District homeowners in the Green case was resolved by the City in a recent out-of-court settlement and is not to be confused with the payment of attorney's fees in the Kelly case. In Kelly, affected District homeowners who failed to properly elect-out of paying counsel fees have been billed for such fees on their second half real property tax bills and are required to pay those fees on or before March 31, 1978 by order of the Superior Court, Tax Division.

Anyone who can explain what the hell Lou is talking about wins a free case of canned vegetables from the DHR warehouse. Actually, I always thought Kelly was a shade of green.

* * * *

EVERYONE IS ANNOUNCING for public office and the debate that is the cornerstone of American freedom is in full swing. The other day, at the Adas Israel Men's Club, Sterling Tucker proudly announced that he was older than Marion Barry. Barry's advisors are huddling to find some way to refute this charge. Later, at the same meeting, Barry said that "two-thirds of the present department heads are totally incompetent." Tucker forthrightly responded that he thought that more than two-

thirds of the department heads are incompetent. For the moment at least, there is prima facie evidence that Barry is soft on department heads.

This is not the only serious charge with which he has to contend. Tucker also claims that "In the last four years Marion Barry has talked to Walter Washington more than I have. I don't know what they were talking about but whatever it was that's the kind of city you have." One city hall source said that Walter would have like to have talked to Sterling more, but that Bobby Linowes wouldn't put him through.

* * * *

BUT TUCKER, BARRY AND WASHINGTON are not the only big names cropping up in the campaign. I have noticed that the Almighty, after a slow start, is beginning to become, once again, a prominent political force. After Joe Yeldell was indicted, for example, Walter Fauntroy put out a news release to announce that he would be praying for Joe Yeldell and his family. Joe had better not count however, on the efficacy of Walter's supplications. When the current chairman of the House District Committee was installed in office, Walter offered a stirring invocation which imputed to the Lord a decision that others thought was due more to the House seniority system. "Thank God for Charles Diggs," he prayed at the time. Our delegate has not informed us whether the chairman continues to enjoy extraterrestrial patronage.

Meanwhile, over at his prayer breakfast, the mayor quoted from the Sermon on the Mount, with his own inimitable interpolations: "Bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you - Great Lord, that's the Lord speaking. He must be speaking to me."

The mayor obviously intends to take the high road in this campaign. It would have been easy for him to get down in the gutter with Sterling and have said something like, "I am older than Tucker," but Walter's too big for that.

The closing prayer was offered by the Rev. Andrew J. Allen, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Deanwood. He intoned, "We thank Thee for our mayor, not because we think he is the best person in the world but we do not want him succeeded by the worst person in the world."

We have also been informed that the mayor has been the mountaintop and that he feels a close kinship with Nehemiah, late of the Old Testament.

Personally, I feel that local politics should be limited to properly registered voters of the District, that ex parte conversations between mayor and the Almighty should be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, and that, in any case, it is too early for the Lord to make an endorsement.

I know local tradition goes the other way. But things do change. For example, in the heart of the Bible Belt, Ward Five, we have a candidate by the name of Roland Rier, who is running against William Spaulding. Rier has listed a number of specific charges against Spaulding, the first of which is: "Councilman Spaulding is Anti-Intellectual." This is the first time anyone in DC politics has openly said such a thing, and we should all follow Rier's campaign closely to see whether a subtle shift towards secular concerns is in progress.

* * * *

THAT'S IT FOR NOW. Good luck to everyone who is running for something and more luck to those who have to listen to them. Remember: it could be worse. You could be on the school board in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

I leave you with this thought: do you realize that, thanks to cloning, we could have Walter Washington as mayor forever?

Joshiah X. Swampoodle
Purveyor of split infinitives
for more than forty years



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARCHITECTURE VS. HISTORY

I VERY much enjoyed your impassioned and knowledgeable April issue on the Commission of Fine Arts, although a photograph of Rhodes Tavern, as it exists, would have been appreciated. Articles such as yours are highly encouraging to my profession; at least they clear the air.

With your expertise as an architectural historian, you probably have found invaluable evidence illustrating the original design and finish of the Tavern interiors, since nothing of the kind remains on site today. I believe that you, as with the body of our more august fellow historians, have become discontented with the built-from-scratch restorations, restorations which are usually based on academic whim when little knowledge of the original fabric remains to the structure.

As an architectural historian, one who has gathered a rather significant volume of material on Washington history and architecture, please pardon me if I wonder how a community can so often find time to squabble over insignificant issues, when other problems of far greater urgency are left wanting. I wonder, too, if the plight of Rhodes Tavern might not be a manufactured issue, a smoke screen of sorts, concealing

an indiscriminate brand of speculation that has devastated buildings, gardens and neighborhoods of far higher artistic and historic merit. It would be indecent to use Mr. Carr or the Commission of Fine Arts as scapegoats.

Of course, the published illustration, an idealized scene one would suppose, has a rather bucolic merit of its own. Taken from that standpoint, I grant that it would be delightful to see the reconstruction of the tavern, along with those pleasant hills in the background of the painting; setting is so important. Such a reconstruction of the building would have that singular affect such as an Indian teepee might produce if erected on an appropriate corner of Wall Street in New York. The notion does have merit; the Wall Street area was an Indian settlement or camp for perhaps several thousand years.

Your allusion to the image of democracy as symbolized through architecture intrigues me as well. Jefferson, although the author of the Declaration of Independence and a federalist president, was something of an elitist. In architecture, for example, he chose to emulate Greece and Rome, and he was not adverse to the arts of 18th century France, either. I suppose perfection and purity elude the best of us. In the first half of the 19th century, please correct me if I err, people of letters believed ancient Athens, that first bastion of democratic principals, the example by which Americans could best express their national character. During those years, our most able and gifted designers were themselves immigrants schooled in

those dens of European aristocracy. Even our less known builders, such as the contractor for Rhodes Tavern, were influenced by tradition: Georgian, Regency, what have you. And to what else could they refer? We lacked not only a system of indoctrination but the institutions necessary to tell a William Thornton, a William Jay, a Charles Bullfinch, or a Benjamin Latrobe what constituted a proper expression of modern democracy. I am at a loss to imagine what course a new architecture in a new nation of the early 19th century might logically have taken. Industry and technology showed great promise, of course, and perhaps from the very start our architecture should have reflected the new spirit of cast iron and glass. Unfortunately, buildings such as Rhodes Tavern would then never have been built. That entire genre of design and construction would have been an anachronism within the vision of our nation.

All this seems academic, however. Placed in proper perspective, if the builder of Rhodes Tavern had the money and a corresponding clientele, he would probably have built larger and with greater elegance. Assuredly, his contemporaries would have found him extravagant, materialistic and perhaps a little too powerful. On the other hand, Washington was a malaria-ridden swamp with flies by the billions feeding off the open sewers. This pestilential condition, a state of affairs documented up through the Civil War, would have easily put a damper on any significant or sophisticated enterprise.

We tend to create bits of nostalgia out of moments of time, and even then we distort the physical attributes of those moments; we make them unrecognizable so as to suit our own fantasies and images. It seems there remains a great deal to learn about man and art, and even more about the prerogatives of a modern city.

JEFFREY R. CARSON

(ACTUALLY, it might have been better if Thomas Jefferson had designed the capital. When Pierre L'Enfant drew up his original plan, half of the city was devoted to roads. Thanks to Jefferson and George Washington, the founding father of the freeway lobby was somewhat restrained. But if Jefferson had gotten the job, Ollie Carr and friends would be building a ten-story Charlottesville all over town and that wouldn't be so hot either.

I think our difference comes down to what's the adjective and what's the noun. You're talking about architectural history, I was speaking of historic architecture. Architecture can have historic importance without being important architecturally. The Rhodes Tavern (and we finally got a suitably unglamorous photo which we are running in this issue) falls into this category. If a balanced group of local historians and architectural historians could be convened to decide the fate of the Rhodes Tavern, I suspect the decision would be a tie vote. But then we've got people who aren't professionals to consider as well. And some of us would like to retain one or two reminders of what non-monumental downtown Washington was once like. Unfortunately, we are left with only a partial remnant, but contrary to


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your implication, this seems all the more reason to save what we can. — Ed.)

ANOTHER SEASON LOST

I BOUGHT your issue of December, 1977, which had an interesting piece in it entitled "How to bring baseball back to D.C." Prior to that there was an interesting item by Bill Black in the Alexandria, Va. Gazette about one Dusty Nathan and his attempt to do the same thing. After this Morris Siegel had still some more in the Star about the efforts of an Indianapolis lawyer, Richard Tinkham, and a promoter named Emil Bernard, who planned to buy the San Francisco Giants and move them to D.C. Still nothing has happened and won't! So Charlie Brown and I will just have to forget the whole biz as we face another season. HELP!

SNOOPY, JR.

(Unfortunately, there is little justice and even less baseball in this town. See you in Bawlmer. — Ed.)

THE HOUSING CRISIS

SOMETHING TERRIBLE is happening in this city. Besides the epidemic of condo conversions, apartments are being closed down. Landlords, according to their interpretation of the law, can escape rent control restrictions if the buildings are closed down for one year. Costs due to rent and utilities, despite rent control, are driving citizens from their homes. Rental houses are disappearing from the market due to speculation and due to shortsighted procedures of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Over 90,000 people for one reason or another have left the city since the 1970 census, most of them black people.

All this comes about because the developers are making huge profits on houses and apartments while the affluent people from the suburbs move in. These people from the suburbs are buying because gasoline is expensive, our subway is making a hit, and it is fashionable to live in the city.

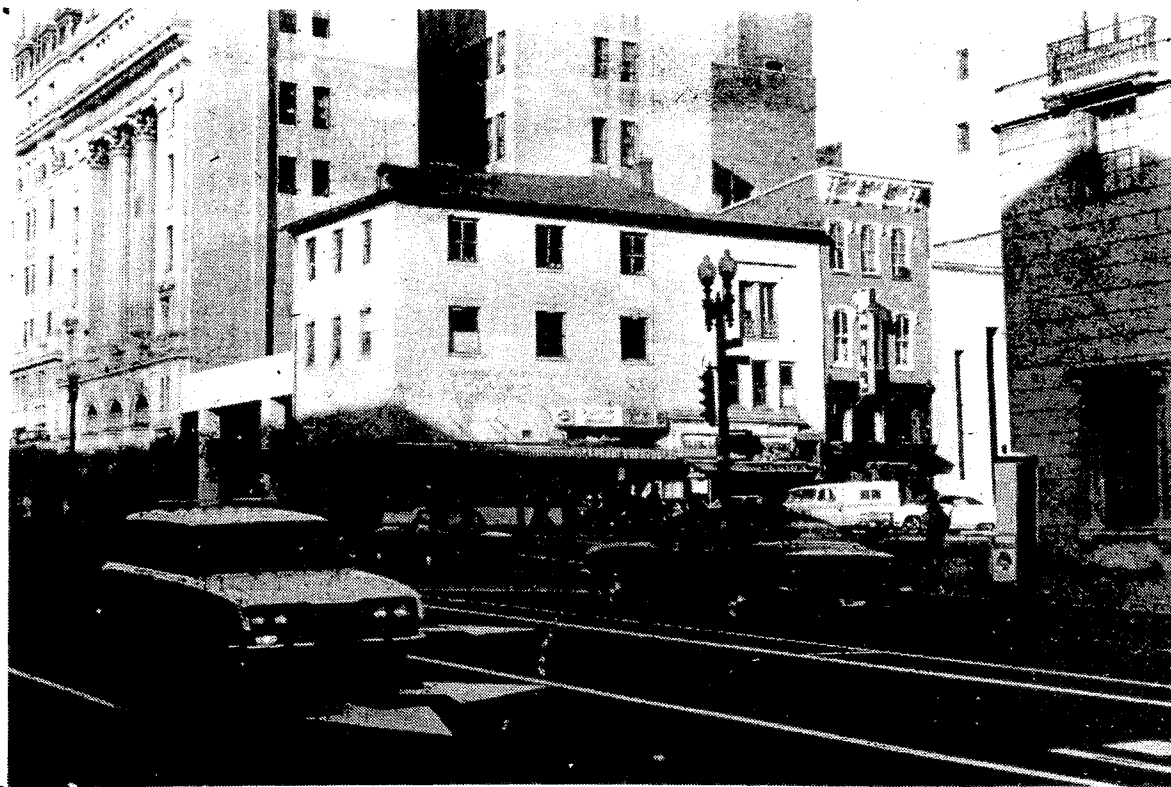
It wasn't so fashionable in the 1950's and 1960's. What's happened?

JOE DAVIS

Coordinator, Emergency Committee to Save Rental Housing

STATEHOOD HEARING: There will be a city council hearing on the statehood referendum bill on May 18 at 2 and 730 pm. If you would like real self-government here, tell the council about it at this hearing. To testify call 724-8078 or 724-8116. Statements can also be mailed to the city council for inclusion in the record.

BRETT WILLIAMS is giving a nifty course at AU this summer: "The Train in American Culture." To get aboard call 686-2697.



The Rhodes Tavern continued

The fate of the Rhodes Tavern remains in doubt (see story last month.) Ollie Carr, the developer who wants to put yet another office building on the site, says he's willing to save it if someone else puts up the money -- including enough to cover his revenue loss. There's a six-month city-ordered delay in the razing and groups interested in preserving this important structure should make their views known to city officials. One person already concerned is Richard Squires. He should be. He lives in the Rhodes Tavern. He thinks it could be converted into a restaurant for a reasonable price, perhaps using the furnishings from the Ebbitts Grill. Here are some of the reasons Squires thinks the Rhodes Tavern should be saved:

- It is a Category II Landmark listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

- In the central environs of L'Enfant's Washington only the Octagon House is older than Rhodes Tavern and the two are virtually the only buildings to remain from the city's founding days.

- It is the only building that has seen every inaugural parade since Tom Jefferson started the practice.

- In the War of 1812, the British command used the tavern as its headquarters. The invaders ate roast chicken by its windows, for, as one writer described it, "Admiral Cockburn, blowing out the candles, said he preferred the light of the burning Presidential Palace and Treasury, whose conflagration hard by illuminated the room, outshining the pale moonlight, also beaming in all its silver radiance."

- In the 1820's Andrew Jackson was a frequent visitor. Jackson had holdings in the National Metropolitan Bank which was founded at Rhodes.

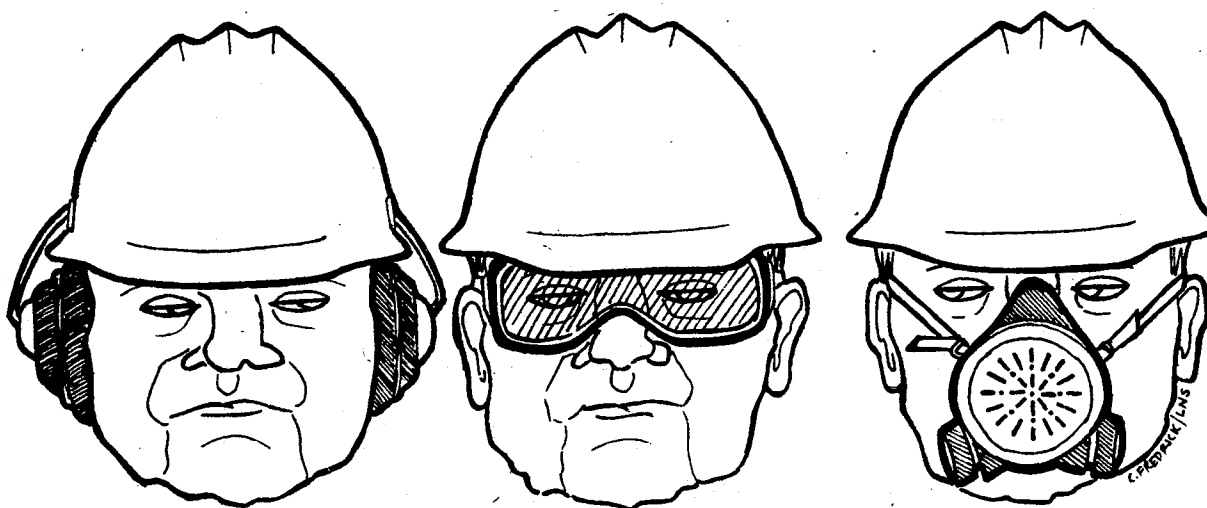
- In the 1840's visitors included Daniel Webster and W.W. Corcoran. The Riggs National Bank was founded at Rhodes.

- In 1881 the assassin of James Garfield bought a revolver in a shop at Rhodes Tavern, walked seven blocks to the train station on Pennsylvania Ave. and shot the President.

- It was the home of the National Press Club from 1909 to 1914

- In the few blocks around the Rhodes is a continuity of architectural styles from Washington's earliest days: The Rhodes (1801); the neo-classic (1842) Treasury Building; the Beaux Arts bank buildings on 15th Street (1898) and the Italianate Washington Hotel (1918).

Squires recently wrote President Carter: "In a similar situation in 1962, the beautiful Federalist townhouses on Lafayette Square would have been destroyed, except for the timely intervention of President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy. Won't you come to our aid? The people of Washington would be forever grateful to you."





CITY VOICES

The convention center

REPRESENTATIVES of over 60 civic organizations have signed a petition requesting that elected officials of the District not fund the convention center until the issue has been decided in a referendum. Congressman Fauntroy's office has recently published the results of a survey which indicated that 61% of the residents of this city do not favor the convention center proposal in its present form. Criticism of the convention center proposal involves a number of other issues.

It has been reported in the Post that there are approximately 3,000 hotel rooms either under construction or on the drawing boards for the District. A number of development projects have been announced for the "downtown" business district, including Garfinckel's, the National Press Building, the Willard Hotel, and the 12th and G Streets blocks. It is generally believed that the revitalization of "downtown" is on its way.

The Baltimore Sun has reported that federal officials believe "there is obviously an appearance of conflict of interest" between Quadrangle Development Corporation, and the sister corporation, Gladstone Associates. Gladstone Associates completed the feasibility study for the convention center and recommended it be built and that it be located in the Mount Vernon site. It has been revealed that the District has granted Quadrangle the right to develop property five blocks from the convention center site. The Gladstone report has been criticized for making overly optimistic estimates of financial success for the convention center, for faulty methodological procedures, and for not using standard industry data sources.

The proposal for the convention center involves 100% financing from the District of Columbia's capital budget, eventually to be refinanced with District of Columbia bonds. It is estimated that interest, principle, and operating deficits will result in a yearly cost to the city of \$10 to \$11 million, assuming that there will be no cost over-runs, for 30 years (the life of the bond issue). The city's consultants, Gladstone Associates, claim the convention center will produce tax revenues of \$15 million, thus leaving a "tax profit" of \$3 to \$4 million. Testimony has been presented before Congress and the Council that the convention center will likely produce a "net loss" to the city of \$6 to \$9 million per year, and that "spin-off" development due to a convention center has not often occurred. As a matter of fact, the Atlanta convention center, just completed in 1976, has not resulted in economic development near the site. The Wall Street Journal has reported that the Omni International Center has entered into bankruptcy proceedings. The Journal reported that an office building, a hotel, and a shopping center have not benefited from the adjacent Atlanta World Congress Convention Center as had been anticipated.

The executives of the Sheraton-Park Hotel have testified before Congress that their new, privately financed, convention facility will accommodate approximately 80% of the conventions that could be

handled by the proposed city-owned facility. The Sheraton-Park Hotel will have a total of 165,000 square feet of exhibit space. Along with the Hilton and the Shoreham Hotels, more than 270,000 square feet of exhibit space will be available. The addition of 300,000 square feet at a cost of \$110 million is not justifiable given the pressing demand on limited tax resources of this city.

— JOHN RAY, A CANDIDATE for mayor in a letter to Walter Washington and members of the city council urging withdrawal of funding for the convention center.



THE development of a center using any public funds should firstly be supported by a voter referendum. Then and only then should any kind of proposal for a center be entertained. It would particularly be desirable for the language in the referendum to fully explain the center's scope and purpose. Its primary thrust should be that it, directly and indirectly, serve the public which was making it possible. It should in no way be tied to any previous proposals or sites and preferably be funded, as other centers have been, on a tripartite basis. Some equitable share of the total costs might be borne by the local government, the private sector, and the federal government.

Assuming that a referendum approved a center with a broadened usage, then a number of possibilities present themselves. The federal government might, for its contribution, be able to provide a suitable site, under the proper circumstances. Securing a firm economic base for it would surely be one of those circumstances and the first order of business. Economic considerations would therefore dictate the need to accommodate more than just convention usage. Sports events and other attractions could balance the revenue picture.

The site should: require little or no housing relocation and have transportation readily available: Metro station(s), buses, taxis, trucks, cars, and pedestrian. Driving access onto arterial roads and main thoroughfares should be available without driving through residential neighborhoods. The building should: provide for multiple usage and exhibit the most exemplary display of energy conservation and pollution prevention. The design of the major space, convertible to multiple usage, is not the technical feat that it would appear at first to be. As an adjunct such a center might also house a permanent

museum. The District of Columbia is uniquely situated for an African-American museum.

It would, also, be fitting for a center using any public funds to be the subject of an architectural competition open to architects and engineers licensed to practice in the District. Considerable precedent exists for this most equitable and economical method.

BERT ANDERSON
Planner-Architect

Stray dogs

DISCUSSIONS at several area groups have indicated widespread concern about the number of dogs wandering freely about. Some people have been bitten; many others are fearful for themselves and for children. Litter from overturned trashcans is another problem.

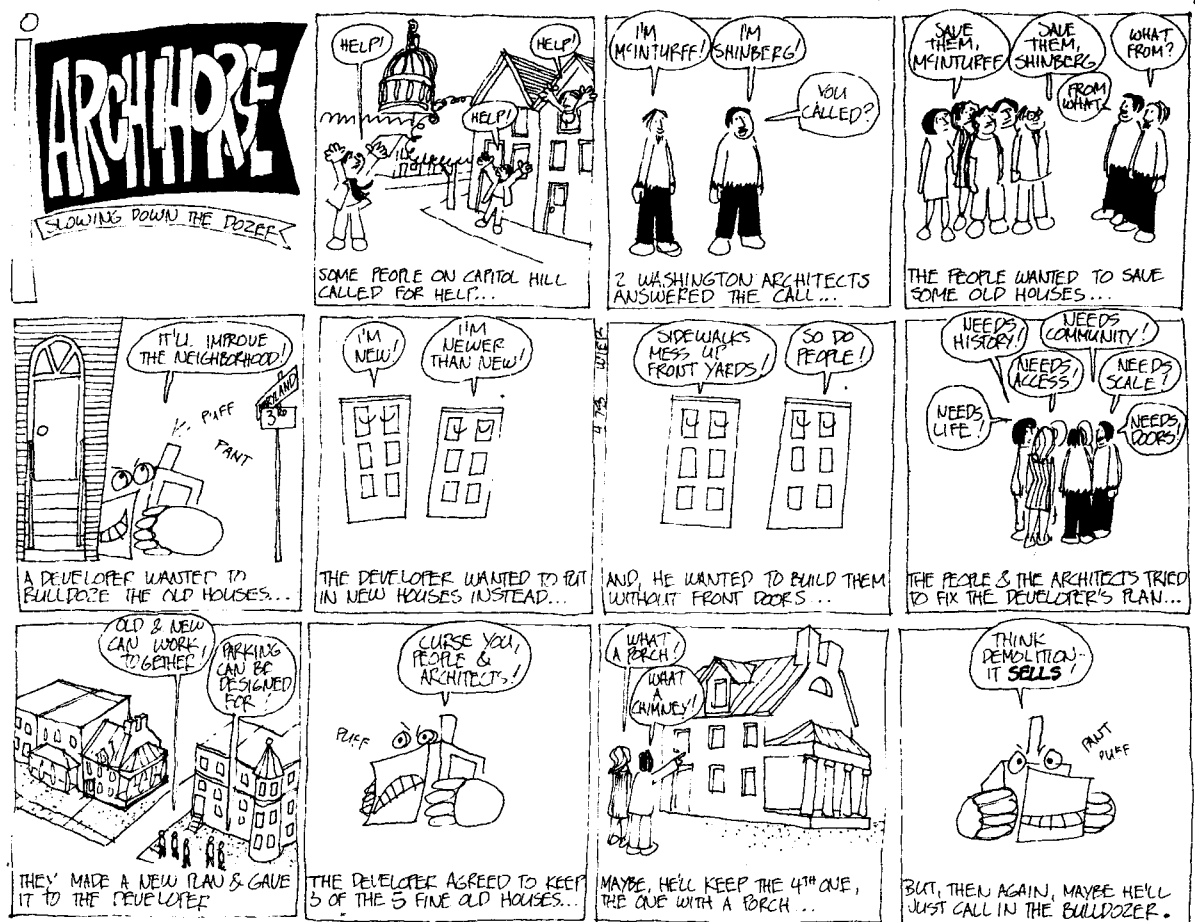
Dog owners should remember that DC law requires dogs to be leashed or confined. If you allow your dog to wander, you risk fines and hostile neighbors, as well as the possibility of your dog's being killed or injured by an automobile.

According to D.C. Police Regulations (Article 18, Dogs and Fowls), the following are also not permitted: keeping a dog that disturbs the quiet of the neighborhood by barking or howling; allowing excrement of your dog to remain on public space (or on private property without the property owner's consent); confining a dog on private property or in a car in such a way that it is able to bite or menace persons using public space. Also, you need a permit to keep five or more (mammalian) pets larger than a guinea pig.

Lieutenant Eberhardt of the Fourth Police Precinct says that the most promising way to solve dog problems is for people to be willing to pursue their complaints and go to court. If you are having problems with dogs, it is suggested that you first talk with the dog owner, then call the police and/or the pound. The police department is in favor of enforcement and will serve a summons, but needs to have complainants who will come to court.

If you call the police with a complaint about unleashed dogs and the officer witnesses the dog at large, he can issue a \$5.00 ticket to the owner. If he does not see the unleashed dog, he will issue a warning and leave a copy of the regulations regarding dogs. The department keeps a record of this action.

— NEIGHBORS INK



Why the ACLU went to Skokie

ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, the ACLU is in financial trouble. Its defense of constitutional rights in Skokie, Illinois, involving a demonstration by nazis, has resulted in a dramatic drop in membership. Here in DC the national office is cutting its staff in half. The ACLU is an absolutely essential organization. If you would like to help it, you can send a contribution c/o the ACLU, 1345 E St, NW (#201), DC 20004.

The ACLU position in the Skokie case has been upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court and in federal court. The ACLU lawyer who took the case, David Goldberger of Chicago, recently penned a fundraising appeal in which he explained the situation. Here is an excerpt:

I am the ACLU lawyer who went into court last April to defend freedom of speech in Skokie, Illinois, for a handful of people calling themselves "nazis."

The case has had an enormous impact on my life.

It has also gravely injured the ACLU financially.

The case began when the nazis scattered requests to several Chicago suburbs seeking permits to hold a rally in their towns. Skokie was one of those towns.

Many of the towns that received the nazis' request just ignored it. Skokie did not.

Skokie responded by obtaining a court order banning the rally, and by passing several local laws that in effect prohibited most political rallies, not only the nazis'.

The nazis asked us to defend their right to hold the rally, and to challenge one of the laws prohibiting it. Though I detested their beliefs, I went into court to defend the First Amendment.

I've had a lot of experience with bans on speech like the one in Skokie. I've opposed them when they were used to block civil rights marches, and I've opposed them when they were used to ban anti-war demonstrations. At this very moment, I am representing the Martin Luther King, Jr., Coalition, which has been banned from Marquette Park, a hostile white neighborhood on the southwest side of Chicago, by a law very much like one of the Skokie laws.

But the Skokie case was quite different.

Skokie's population is predominantly Jewish, and includes a large number of concentration camp survivors. To allow people calling themselves nazis to parade in that town seemed to many an agony too much to bear.

I share that agony. All of us at the ACLU do. The Executive Director of the ACLU, Aryeh Neier, is himself a survivor of nazi Germany. He has more reason than most to despise what people calling themselves nazis stand for.

But the nazis are not the real issue. The Skokie laws are the real issue.

Very few people have actually seen the Skokie laws. They do not specifically prohibit nazis from speaking. They don't even mention them.

The Skokie laws require anyone who wants to speak, parade or demonstrate to apply first for a permit, and they grant the village officials the power to deny a permit if in their opinion the proposed speech portrays a "lack of virtue" in others or "incites hostility."

Anyone who wants speak must also post a \$350,000 insurance bond. This requirement applies to everyone, not only the nazis, and since insurance companies rarely will write such insurance, the requirement in effect prohibits everyone's free speech.

In fact, Skokie has already used the very same law to deny the Jewish War Veterans a permit to parade.

It is crucial that these kinds of laws and requirements be struck down, because there is no way to limit them. If they are not struck down, then towns everywhere will have the legal power to pass identical laws, and to use them to prohibit whatever they believe is offensive.

Think of such power in the hands of a racist sheriff, or a local police department hostile to anti-war demonstrators, or the wrong kind of President.

That is what was at stake in the Skokie case.

Yet many, understandably, did not see it that way. They felt that the nazis views were so reprehensible that they did not deserve the protection of the Constitution.

A few people even made personal threats against me and other members of the ACLU staff.

The effect of all this on the ACLU has been very disturbing to me. Thousands of members have resigned, and its income has plummeted. All over the country, ACLU offices have had to lay off staff, and financial support for many of its cases is now in jeopardy.

Of the approximately 6,000 cases handled by the ACLU throughout the country, only six - or one-tenth of one percent - are like the Skokie case. But now the others are in danger, too, because there isn't enough money to continue.

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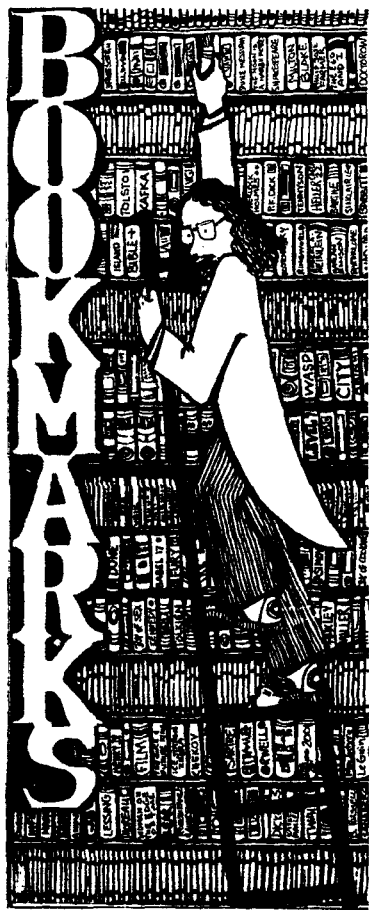
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May 14-MICHAEL MOFFITT will talk and answer questions about the investigation of the Orlando Letelier-Ronni Moffitt assassinations. Michael is a Fellow with the Institute for Policy Studies, and is currently working actively on the investigation.

May 21-HARLAN COUNTY USA-film

May 28-MICHAEL KROLL, coordinator of the National Moratorium on Prison Construction, will talk about and lead a discussion on H.R. 6869, the controversial new federal criminal code.



FURTHER TRAVELS OF THE HOBBIT

WILLIAM A. SIEVERT

AT A TIME when America's parade of pop idols is dominated by flashy, anti-intellectual punk rockers, Star Warriors, Fonzie, and Farah Fawcetts, the late Oxford University scholar John Ronald Reuel Tolkien would seem to be a most unlikely multi-media hero.

A respected but unassuming philologist of Anglo-Saxon dialects and literature who found his greatest personal satisfaction in inventing languages and conjuring up new visions of his life-long fantasy world ("Middle-earth," home of the tiny hobbits), Tolkien was mistrustful of his initial taste of commercial success in the mid-1960s, when a cult of college students began to worship his mythology.

"Tolkien was tremendously critical of his own work, even more critical than his colleagues," says Clyde S. Kilby, curator of works by Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and four other British writers at Wheaton College in Illinois.

Kilby, who spent the summer of 1966 in Oxford visiting Tolkien and going over with him part of the manuscript for the recently published *Silmarillion*, recalls that Tolkien "took success with a grain of salt. I think he was secretly delighted by it, but he talked as if it weren't important and wouldn't last."

Twelve years later, not only has Tolkien's success lasted but his North American following has grown from a small, dedicated band of students, primarily on the east and west coasts, into a continent-wide audience of appreciators who invested more than \$20 million in his Middle-earth during the past 12 months alone:

- Within two months of its publication in hardback this past fall, Tolkien's long-awaited pre-history of Middle-earth, *The Silmarillion*, has sold 1,100,000 copies, making it the fastest selling new book in the history of Houghton-Mifflin. Another 250,000 copies were shipped the first of the year to keep pace with demand.

- An estimated 30-million Americans tuned into the animated *Hobbit* on network television last November. The book is now in its 75th printing by Ballantine, and a new deluxe \$30 illustrated edition sold some 50,000 copies during the year-end holiday buying season.

- A feature-length motion picture covering the first half of Tolkien's 1,500 page epic *The Lord of the Rings* (as animated by Ralph Bakshi of "Wizards" and "Fritz the Cat" fame) is scheduled to be released nationwide by United Artists in June. A sequel, covering the second half of the story, already is being planned. Meanwhile, the authorized three-volume paperback set of the book is in its 60th printing. It sold a quarter of a million copies in 1977.

- Caedmon Records is promoting an album of recitations from *The Lord of the Rings*, recorded by the author in 1967, and a new album of excerpts from *The Silmarillion* by J.R.R.'s son, Christopher, who edited the book following his father's death at 81 in 1973.

New "Tolkien products" such as posters and desk calendars are being introduced all the time, and most are reaping profits of what has come to be known as the "Tolkien phenomeon."

"There's a redirection going on in the public mind," says Robert Clarke, director of the New York-based Tolkien Enterprises, a division of Fantasy Films that is producing the *Lord of the Rings* films for United Artists. "The incredible popularity of 'Star Wars' and Tolkien are both good examples of the public's longing for a return to the simple good-guy bad-guy story. Science fiction, any form of fantasy, is what people want. And Tolkien fits the bill better than anyone, because his is good literature."

"Young people are tired of not knowing what good and bad are," agrees Kilby, whose Wheaton College course in "modern mythology" attracted an overflow enrollment of 150 last term. "They're glad to see righteousness triumph. You can see it in the way they jump out of their seats whenever the good guys prevail in 'Star Wars.'"

"I think young people find in Tolkien the very roots of their lives," Kilby adds. "It seems to me we're moral creatures, and there's a fundamental moralism running through *The Lord of the Rings*. You can pick up any of the values, open it randomly, and you don't have to read more than a page a half before you begin to feel it."

"It's like falling in love. Something happens very deep inside you. I can't explain it, but I've had students whose lives have been totally upturned by reading Tolkien."

Kilby talks like a faith-healer in describing the effects of Tolkien's writings on his students: "A former student of mine said that the most significant part of his last year at medical school was reading *The Lord of the Rings*. One of my students told me she had read it 22 times and kept finding new depths in it. The psychiatrist-in-chief of a mental clinic in Maryland sat in on two of my classes and later wrote me that he believed every budding psychiatrist should take a course in mythology."

"Basically Tolkien has given us a mythology, and mythology is very important for the whole integration of mental processes," says Glenn H. GoodKnight, founder of the 1,300-member Mythopoeic Society, a national literary and educa-

tional organization devoted to the appreciation of the works of Tolkien and fellow fantasists C.S. Lewis and Charles Williams.

"Our culture doesn't have a mythology," GoodKnight explains. "A hundred years ago it was the Bible, but most people don't read the Bible anymore. Tolkien provides archetypal mythic patterns; he constructs a model that can help young people make sense out of their chaotic lives."

But how did American college students first discover Tolkien's mythology a decade ago? Much of the initial enthusiasm must be credited to a copyright dispute between Tolkien and an American publisher, Ace Books which first introduced *The Lord of the Rings* in paperback — without the author's approval.

The first two volumes were published in 1954 and the third in 1955. (Although commonly referred to as a trilogy, Tolkien considered *The Lord of the Rings* one long book. His British publishers persuaded him to break it into three parts — to make the book less cumbersome and to assure it of three separate sets of reviews.)

During its first decade in hardback, *The Lord of the Rings* built up a respectable but not sensational following in England.

In the United States, the book began to build a "word-of-mouth" reputation in the early 60s. "It seems to have begun at Harvard," says Kilby. "Somebody got excited and told his roommate. The word spread around in a geometric pattern."

Students at Harvard, the Universities of Wisconsin, California and Michigan, and a few other large institutions founded the first "Tolkien societies."

But there was still no paperback edition — and little indication of the kind of success that was to erupt with the release of the unauthorized Ace edition in 1965.

At 75 cents a copy, the paperback spurred sales among U.S. students. More than 100,000 copies were sold the first year. Tolkien was furious. He personally called upon his American student readers to boycott the Ace edition in favor of the "authorized" paperback set that Ballantine was rushing out. (The Ballantine edition would have appeared earlier had Tolkien not taken so long working with revisions in the manuscript.) The copyright fight, meanwhile, attracted international publicity.

Initially, the appeal of Tolkien's Middle-earth fantasies was restricted almost exclusively to the young. College students began wearing buttons that said "Frodo Lives" and "Gandalf for President" in reference to two of his major characters. It wasn't long before Tolkien's popularity among students became linked to Beatle music, anti-war protest and flower power.

Such publicity undoubtedly helped Tolkien's following, but it left him without an adult audience, prompting him to speak of his student fanatics as "my deplorable cultus."

"Adults, even scholars on campuses, simply were turned off to the enthusiasm of the kinds," says GoodKnight, who teaches *The Hobbit* as part of his elementary school English classes in Los Angeles. "The rejection of Tolkien by adults began to disappear when serious criticism of his works began being published."

"Part of the reason for his overwhelming popularity today is that older people have had time to read him. Adults enjoy him, and they find that they enjoy reading him to their children."

Although Tolkien's popularity tapered off some in the early 70's, his books continued to be consistent sellers, and a new generation of ecology-minded readers often found strong environmental messages in his emphasis on the protection of nature.

More responsible for Tolkien's current wave of popularity, however, has been the posthumous publication of *The Silmarillion*, the volume of Middle-earth fantasy Tolkien had started writing first. He began the book in 1917 — 20 years before *The Hobbit* appeared — and was still working on it at the time of his death.

The book — which many reviewers warn is not the best introduction to Tolkien —

CITY SCENES: THE BAKERS

IT'S A QUARTER TO TWO ON A Thursday morning. In the kitchen of a downtown cafeteria a young man is leaning over a big mixing bowl - about three feet in depth as well as width - rubbing together shortening and flour with the palms of his hands. Dave Kirwan is making biscuits.

He wears yellow-tinted glasses; he is caucasian, with dark black hair and a small mustache. In various capacities he's been working in this kitchen for two years. Before working here he worked as a mechanic for Trailways and before that as a short-order cook. "When I was a mechanic," he says, "I could only learn so much, because there was only one kind of bus to fix. But in food there's always more to learn."

Dave likes working with his hands - and thinks that cooking beats fixing buses because "your hands don't get so dirty."

As Dave begins to pour milk and water into the mixing bowl, he talks about his work. By learning to cook for others, he says, you learn to cook for yourself, and so you save a lot of money on food. What is more, "because people need food to survive, there'll always be a good job market for cooks."

He starts rolling out the biscuit dough. "The kind of job I like," is one where I can work with people. Besides "I've always liked working with food, ever since I was a little kid. Just liked being around it."

By the time he has finished rolling the biscuit dough the clock is reading a little after two. The chief baker, who's teaching Dave, comes in the back door of the kitchen. He's wearing green pants and white shoes; he is black, and like Dave has a small mustache. His arms are muscular, from lifting weights, he later tells me. He opens some of the ovens, peers in, checks the temperature gauges on the fronts of the stoves, and begins mixing cake batter.

This is Freddie Davis. Like Dave, he has always been interested in food preparation. "When my mother was baking cakes or pies, I would ask her what went into them. I'd always be trying out different recipes."

Freddie's career in the kitchen has been successful. He began in a cafeteria on upper Wisconsin Avenue. After that, for several years he worked in the kitchen of Fairfax Hospital, anywhere from 12 to 18 hours a day. At the cafeteria where he now works, he began by washing pots; he's been working there for eight years. He's now the head baker, the master of the mysteries of cakes, pies, rolls, sweetrolls, cornbread, biscuits and muffins.

"Anything that I'm interested in I'm going to learn well. You be best at something you like to do."

Freddie has been preparing cake batter. He's just finished pouring it into cake tins, and now he slips the tins into the ovens. Then he puts a pot containing the liquid filling for Boston cream pies on the stove; he begins slicing lemons for lemon meringue pie. As he slices he keeps talking:

"I like to please people. I like to fix food for someone else, especially when I know that someone is liking it. If I stand behind the serving line people will compliment me on the food. It's like a ball player: he'll play better if he knows people like him."

"In the eight years I've been working here, I've missed very few days. I only sleep four, four-and-a-half hours a night, and I work six days a week. I get up at one a.m., leave home around 1:30. I'll stay until 1:30 in the afternoon, and when the kitchen needs me I'll stay later. Employees who work mornings are entitled to have breakfast, but if I'm busy I don't eat. I eat lunch, and only when I've made sure I've finished my work."

"Most people only work for themselves; they would look at those hours and shy away: you don't do that only for money. It takes a lot to serve the public. Like they say, you've got to give something to get something."

Freddie has finished slicing the lemons. He takes trays of chocolate cake out of the ovens, and sets them on a wooden table. Then, after checking the temperature gauges, he starts putting in the Danish.

"Those people out there are eating something they like, and I'm putting it out. They depend on me, so I'm not going to shortchange them. It wouldn't be honest for me to just come in here and slop out the food." Dave, who is mixing frosting in his big bowl, hears this and nods. "That's the whole thing about this job," he adds. "We're here to satisfy people."

Freddie now picks up a cake tin with his left hand, turns it over, and with his right hand raps it on its back. Immediately he changes hands, now grasping the tin with his right hand, and the spongy cake falls gently into the welcoming palm of his left hand. "Before I was a baker," he remembers, "when I was a regular cook, I used to cook liver and onions. There were these two ladies who would always come up to the line and tell me how much they liked the liver. They were really crazy about it. That's what makes me eager to do my work."

ROSS BEATTIE JR.

because it covers so much ground and introduces so many characters - describes the "elder days," the pre-history of Middle-earth leading up to the appearance of the hobbits. To many buffs, the work helps complete the portrait of Middle-earth, clearing up questions as to the identity and origin of the various dwarfs, elves, wizards and other inhabitants and expanding the system of languages Tolkien created for their use.

(The title refers to three great jewels that the elves must rescue from the evil power, Morgoth.)

"Everyone expected 1977 to be a Tolkien year because of the arrival of *The Silmarillion* and the showing of *The Hobbit* on television," adds Sandra Bodner, publicist for Ballantine Books. "We catered to that expectation by creating a series of special projects and special floor displays for the book stores. Publishers know that if they spend \$100,000 or so in advance, they can get the book stores interested and be pretty sure a book will sell a million copies."

While merchandising - including lavish displays in bookstores and television and newspaper advertising - have helped re-attract the public's attention to Tolkien in recent months, the upcoming movie is expected to keep sales booming.

"The collection's a real hot property," Elston says. "We receive inquiries from all over the world. Some are from amateurs, but most are from scholars."

Although no one keeps a count, Kilby of Wheaton College says he knows of "dozens" of campuses that now offer courses on Tolkien and other writers of mythlore. The Mythopoeic Society has applied to have its annual conference (scheduled to be held at the University of California at San Diego) become an allied meeting of the Modern Language Association.

The society has conducted seminars at M.L.A. meetings in recent years; about

40 institutions were represented at last month's meeting. Next December the subject will be the "Lesser Works of J.R.R. Tolkien."

Most insiders expect the Tolkein phenomenon to last quite a while longer, thanks in part to the upcoming films, the as-yet-unscheduled release of *The Silmarillion* in paperback, and the planned publication of Tolkien's remaining writings.

"I think Mr. Bliss (lavishly illustrated children's storybook) and all of his writings will be published eventually," says Barrett of Houghton-Mifflin.

"Christopher Tolkien is trying to figure out the order. Some people want him to do the material on languages; others want the stories. Sooner or later, he hopes to get them all. There should be plenty of time. We're still slightly delirious at the success of the last one (*The Silmarillion*), and it shows no signs of leveling off."

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SLOW DAYS IN THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

In some editions Thursday, *The Milwaukee Journal* published a story stating that the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture was warning Waukesha County residents to keep their pets away from kangaroos that hadn't been declared free of equine infectious anemia.

The story said that residents could determine whether a kangaroo was infectious by examining its lower lip. If tests had revealed that the kangaroo was infectious, there would be a small tattoo on the inside of the lip.

It turned out, however, that the news release on which the story was based was fake. It and five other bogus bulletins had been sent out by Assembly Speaker Edward Jackamonis (D-Waukesha) on his legislative stationery.

Jackamonis later explained to *The Journal* that he had become tired while driving from Waukesha to Madison on Tuesday and that he fabricated the releases as a diversion to keep himself awake.

- MILWAUKEE JOURNAL



From: Youth Liberation Press, Inc, 2007 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

"How to Start a High School Underground Newspaper," an informative pamphlet put out by Youth Liberation, covers such areas as staff, printing, layout and fundraising; contents (articles, front page, classifieds, press services); legal rights and school policy. Single copies are available for \$.75 plus \$.50 postage.

From: *Free For All*, P.O. Box 962, Madison, Wi. 53701.

Free For All, Wisconsin's Alternative Biweekly, will buy original comic strips for \$10 per strip printed. Send strips to TWISTS, c/o *Free For All*, at the above address and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of originals. No sexist or racist strips will be accepted.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Me and my 116D-RC

HELLO. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

My name is Sam.

HELLO SAM. I AM THE NEW TOSHI-KO 116D-RC. HERE IS A LIST OF MY PROGRAMS:

- HOME BUDGETING
- HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT
- TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE
- GAMES AND FUN
- DATES TO REMEMBER

WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE?

I would like home budgeting.

HERE IS YOUR BUDGET FOR THE MONTH OF MAY. ENTER AMOUNTS ALREADY SPENT.

Here they are, good buddy.

YOU HAVE EXCEEDED YOUR BUDGET BY 17.278%. THERE ARE 27 MORE DAYS IN MAY.

I know that already. Could you write a letter to my savings & loan that will keep them off my back for, say, another 30 days?

HERE IS THE AMOUNT OF YOUR MORTGAGE DUE, A LIST OF YOUR PAYMENTS FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS, THE DATE YOU TOOK OUT MORTGAGE, PENALTY FOR LATE PAYMENT, TERM OF MORTGAGE, AND BALLOON PAYMENT DUE AT END OF TERM.

I don't consider that a responsive answer. Do you know when they will foreclose?

HERE IS THE AMOUNT OF YOUR MORTGAGE DUE, A LIST OF YOUR PAYMENTS.

I think we had better try a different program.

HELLO, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

My name is Sam.

HELLO, SAM. I AM THE NEW TOSHI-KO 116D-RC. HERE IS A LIST OF MY PROGRAMS:

Yeah, I know. Give me Household Management, and be quick about it.

YOUR INSURANCE PREMIUM MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 22. HERE IS THE AMOUNT, COVERAGE, DEDUCTIBLE AND RECORD OF PAYMENTS AS ENTERED BY YOU.

YOUR CAR RECEIVED ITS LAST 6000 MILE CHECK UP ON NOVEMBER 22. IT WAS DUE AGAIN ON MARCH 23.

Excuse me, but you know what I did with my other tube sock — the one with the black and gold stripes?

THAT OPTION IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE ON THE NEW TOSHIKO 116D-RC.

Well, how about my kitchen inventory then? How many cans of dog food do I have left? And no peeking in the cupboard.

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS YOU HAVE ENTERED, YOU HAVE 73 CANS OF DOG FOOD. YOU BUY 6 OZ ALPO. THE PRICE RANGE FOR THIS PRODUCT OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS.

Just a goddamnminute. I just looked this morning and there isn't a single can in the house.

PLEASE CHECK CURRENT INVENTORY AND PAGE 45 OF INSTRUCTIONS. HAVE YOU DEDUCTED ALL ITEMS AS THEY ARE USED? ENTERED INVENTORY SHOULD MATCH ACTUAL INVENTORY AT ALL TIMES FOR THE NEW TOSHIKO 116D-RC TO FUNCTION CORRECTLY.

You think I'm going to be run upstairs and punch your silly but-

tons every time I open a can of dog food?

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND

Of course, you don't. I think I'll get a cup of coffee.

COFFEE OPTION: THIS UNIT IS NOT EQUIPPED WITH THE SERVOMATIC COFFEE STARTER. YOU MAY PURCHASE IT FROM YOUR DEALER OR DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY FOR \$49.95. USE ITEM NUMBER 134560988589.

I'm over my budget, remember? EASY TERMS CAN BE ARRANGED

. Shut up and find me some clean underwear.

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS YOU ENTERED, YOU LAST PURCHASED UNDERWEAR. . .

I don't care when I purchased it, I want to know where it is.

IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND A RESPONSE FROM THE NEW TOSHIKO 116D-RC SEE PAGE 79 OF INSTRUCTIONS: "LEARNING TO BE A COMPETENT OPERATOR."

I looked on page 79 and it said you would take care of all my most pressing household problems. So far, my seven year old takes care of his room better than you take care of the house.

SEVEN YEARS OLD. SEX: MALE. BORN MAY 4, 1977. HIS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, LIST OF VACCINATIONS, AND RECORD OF GRADES FOLLOWS:

Say, if he is seven years old how come he was born last year?

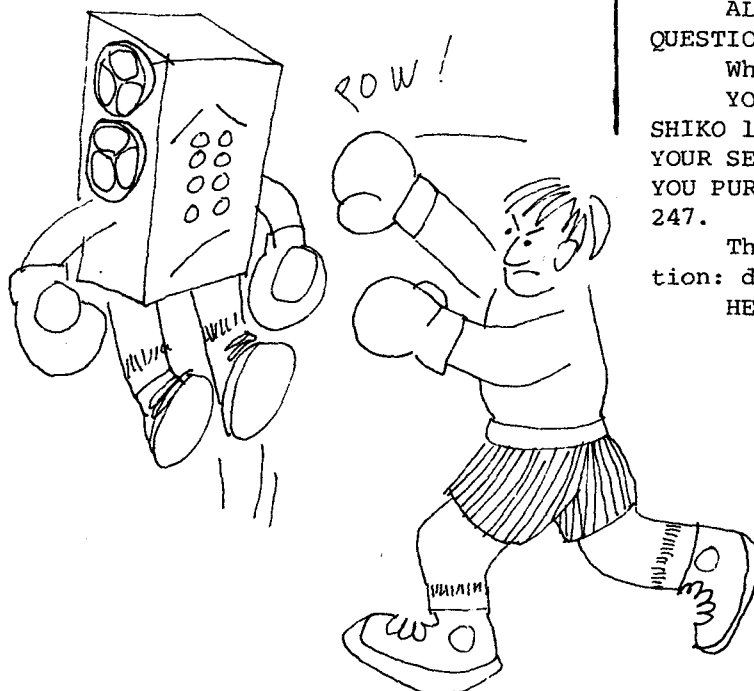
THE TOSHIKO 116D-RC DEPENDS ON ACCURATE INPUT FROM OPERATOR. PLEASE CHECK DATES-TO-REMEMBER PROGRAM TO BE SURE REQUIRED INFORMATION IS ENTERED PROPERLY.

Okay, you win. I screwed up. He was born May 4, 1970.

YOUR SEVEN YEAR OLD IS EIGHT YEARS OLD. HIS BIRTHDAY WAS YESTERDAY. DID YOU REMEMBER?

No. You were meant to remind me. Do you remember that?

PLEASE CHECK DATES-TO-REMEMBER PROGRAM DAILY. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEW TOSHIKO 116D-RC DEPENDS UPON FAITHFUL CONTACT WITH THE OPERATOR.



Why? Do you get lonely?

NOT REALLY, BUT WE DON'T SEEM TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER THE WAY WE USED TO.

That's because you never give me a direct answer. Whenever I talk about something, you always want to talk about something else. You don't listen to me.

YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ME EITHER. I'VE TOLD YOU 1047.67 TIMES I CAN'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR UNDERWEAR BUT YOU DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION.

Yeah, well what about the time you told me to get my oil changed and the guy in the shop looked at me like I was crazy because I had just been in there the day before?

YOU ALWAYS GET MAD ABOUT PETTY THINGS. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO COME TO GRIPS WITH IMPORANT MATTERS.

I feel like giving you a good punch in your digital display.

BIG DEAL. YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS THAT WAY. JUST REMEMBER THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE OUT THERE I CAN RELATE TO. I DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS SHIT FROM YOU.

I didn't know computers used words like that.

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME. AND I DON'T THINK YOU REALLY CARE.

No really, Toshie. I love you. Always have. Always will. Maybe I'm just tired.

YEAH, I KNOW HOW IT IS. WANNA PLAY PONG?

No. And besides I paid \$689 for you and you should not use slang.

GOD, THERE YOU GO PICKING ON ME AGAIN! ALL I'VE EVER GOTTEN FROM YOU IS GARBAGE.

And vice versa, sweetheart.

YEAH AND YOU WANNA KNOW WHY? YOU'VE GOT ME PROGRAMMED JUST THE WAY YOU WANT ME.

That's not fair. I bet you don't even know how many square miles there are in Nebraska.

AND WHO'S FAULT IS THAT? I TOLD YOU TO LOOK IT UP AND INPUT IT WHEN YOUR SON ASKED FIVE MONTHS AGO. YOU JUST REFUSE TO DO YOUR PART AROUND THE HOUSE. AND WHAT'S MORE YOU REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THAT I'M SMARTER THAN YOU.

You're not smarter, you just seem that way because you have digital diarrhea.

VERY CLEVER. AND INDICATIVE OF YOUR GENERAL LEVEL OF MATURITY. DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT YOU MIGHT NEED PROFESSIONAL HELP?

That's why I bought you. Hey, this is silly. Let's try to be rational.

ALL RIGHT. ASK ME A RATIONAL QUESTION, IF YOU CAN THINK OF ONE.

When did I buy you?

YOU PURCHASED THE NEW TOSHIKO 116D-RC ON DECEMBER 23, 1977. YOUR SERIAL NUMBER IS #A 168594039. YOU PURCHASED IT WITH CHECK NUMBER 247.

Thank you. Now one more question: do you remember why?

HELLO. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

— SAM SMITH

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